

Welcome To Gardnerville!

Welcome to the town of Gardnerville, located in the high-desert oasis that is the Carson Valley. We are pleased to have you as a neighbor.

The Town Board and staff are here to serve you. If there is anything we can do for you or that you have questions about, please give us a call at 775-782-7134. Or, better yet, stop by the office. We look forward to meeting you.



Gardnerville Hotel 1879

Your new hometown has a rich cultural and historical heritage that we are proud of and work to preserve while moving into the future.

In 1879, Lawrence Gilman purchased the Kent House, which was located just south of Genoa and was reputedly haunted by a stagecoach-robbing ghost. After acquiring a seven-acre tract of land from homesteader John M. Gardner, Gilman moved the house to the new site. The Kent House became the Gardnerville Hotel — and the town of Gardnerville, named for Gardner, was born.

In spring, summer, and autumn, when the valley is bursting with life, the vast irrigated tracts are a green velvet patchwork quilt . . . and cottonwoods and poplars rise up like flashing green flames.

—David Toll,
The Complete Nevada Traveler

Although the old hotel is no longer standing, the spirit lives on; we don't know about the ghost.

Because of its location along the route to the Esmeralda Mining District and Bodie (where a major gold strike in 1878 heralded a mining boom), Gardnerville soon came to serve as a feed stop for the 24-horse freight teams traveling between Carson City and the mining camps.

For the first five years of its existence, the new settlement of Gardnerville changed little. By 1885, the fledgling town had begun to grow along with the

farming industry in the valley. The town prospered as more hotels, shops, and saloons opened their doors along Main Street. By 1899, Gardnerville had become a center of commerce in the Carson Valley as well as a hub of community activity in the valley.

Danish settlers figured prominently in the new town's development. Just as many Mormon settlers of British origin called Genoa home after 1851 and German pioneers had a strong presence in the early years of nearby Minden, so Gardnerville became the center for Danish immigrants who had arrived in 1870.

Beginning in 1898 the Spanish and French Basques played an important role in the town's history as sheepherders and later as inn and restaurant owners. In 1918, several Basques opened inns in Gardnerville that flourished during Prohibition. Basque dining in Gardnerville remains a culinary attraction.

Gardnerville continues to serve the needs of residents, ranchers, businessmen, and travelers. It is a community that is growing comfortably. Our town leaders believe in planned growth and have developed *The Plan for Prosperity and Design Guidelines* to help manage it.

Gardnerville's Plan for Prosperity

The Town manages its growth and defines its future with *The Plan for Prosperity and Design Guidelines*. The plan's framework includes land use and transportation policies, as well as design concepts, and outlines ways in which public and private investment can support Gardnerville's future.



Gardnerville became the center of commerce in the Carson Valley by 1899. Settlers depended on the shops that opened their doors along Main Street for their supply of goods. Top photo: Gardnerville Elementary School; middle: Gardnerville Meat Market circa 1900; right: Classical Glass Gift Store.



The Town of Gardnerville provides quality services efficiently and cost-effectively based on community needs. We work to preserve the town's quality of life while proactively planning for the future. We are accessible and accountable to our community.

Town of Gardnerville

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WELCOME To Gardnerville!

